



For Immediate Release
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Governor Signs AB 2537 (Furutani) Prevailing Wage Exemption for California Corps and Volunteers

Second bill to be signed into law by Assemblyman Furutani

Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 2537 (Furutani) into law yesterday. This is the second bill signed in to law for Assemblyman Furutani who was only recently elected to the State Assembly in a special election last February.

AB 2537 extends the prevailing wage exemption for volunteers and conservation corps members from January 1, 2009 to January 1, 2012. Without a volunteer exemption, volunteers and corps members would be subject to prevailing wage requirements, which would prevent them from continuing their work in improving California communities.

"This important bill will save California untold amounts of money by allowing non-profit organizations like the conservation corps to work with volunteers to help us with critical programs that help our communities," said Furutani. "In these difficult economic times, I am very proud that this bill has been signed in to law."

In 2006, California volunteers contributed approximately 860 million hours of community service. Volunteers continue to support California every day as they build Little League fields, create school gardens, plant trees, beautify neighborhoods and engage in numerous other important activities.

AB 2537 will ensure that volunteers will be able to continue to volunteer their time without being subject to prevailing wage requirements. To ensure that this exemption is not abused, AB 2537 extends the exemption to 2012 when it will undergo further review before another extension is granted.

This past weekend, another of Assemblyman Furutani's bills was signed in to law AB 2742. This bill adds leased or rented firefighting equipment to the list of eligible equipment for which the Department of Motor Vehicles may issue a restricted driver's license to a firefighter. AB 2742 was one of the few bills signed by the Governor as a package of legislation that will strengthen the state's ability to respond to emergencies and natural disasters.